

Abstract of the Disclosure

This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid comprising a PEG-3 promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence of -270 to +194 of Figure 2. The invention also provides a method for identifying an agent that modulates PEG-3 promoter activity using a cell which comprises a PEG-3 promoter operatively linked to a reporter gene, wherein reduced reporter gene expression in the presence of the agent is indicative of an agent that inhibits PEG-3 promoter activity and wherein increased reporter gene expression in the presence of the agent is indicative of an agent that enhances PEG-3 promoter activity. The invention provides a method for treating cancer in a subject which comprises administering a nucleic acid comprising a PEG-3 promoter operatively linked to a gene-of-interest, wherein the gene-of-interest is selectively expressed in cancerous cells in the subject and such expression results in growth suppression or death of the cancerous cells.